



MISSION: INTEGRATION

HANFORD

MISSION

INTEGRATION

SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER

June 2022



MISSION: SUPPORT

From plants to people, animals to infrastructure, our teams provide assistance for a wide range of needs on the Hanford Site.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Guest Message

2

Volunteer Spotlight:
Todd Krähenbühl

3

Mission: Accomplished

4

Women in Engineering
Luncheon Highlights

4

Safety Summit Brings
Collaboration, Education

5

Workforce Solutions
Creates VALOR Program
to Support Veterans

6

Team Focus: Biological Controls

7

Burrowing Owl Nests
Documented on Hanford Site

9

Weather Team Honored
for Excellence

11

Annual Field Exercise Engages
Multiple Organizations

12

HFD Takes on Wildland
Fire Season Preparedness

13

Routine Maintenance Results
in Yearly Compliance

15

Dreaming, Designing, Doing

16

One Hanford Effort
to Feed Local Families

17

We're #1!

18

Hyperlinks
to stories

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



This time of year, as spring gives way to summer in the Columbia Basin, I see many examples of the relationship between growth and support. From tomato plants growing in supportive wire cages to grape vines spreading along a network of trellises, it's apparent that success often depends on support systems.

People and projects also need support to prosper. Managers manage best with a supportive team around them invested in a common goal. Workers perform best alongside managers who offer the assistance, guidance and support necessary to see a team thrive. I've encountered very few things that can overwhelm the resources of a strong team of individuals, focused on a common goal, who support each other with consideration and cooperation.

I am continually impressed with our team's ability to maintain and encourage a culture of support as we work together as the site integrator to provide services and infrastructure essential to the One Hanford mission. With a deep appreciation of our support role, I applaud your commitment to the success of our team and mission.

Keep up the great work!

Bob

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to this page

Guest Message – Julie Lindstrom

Since the start of HMIS operations, we're hoping you have noticed our organizational branding is different than your typical 'Human Resources,' but rather reflective of who we truly work hard to be – Workforce Solutions. This was quite intentional! Offering meaningful solutions and a supportive presence for all employees is what we strive to do well every day.

The first 18 months of our contract have been undeniably some of the most challenging times in all our lives. From a major contract transition, an unwelcome pandemic (go away, already!), to an uncertain, and often volatile, economy - it's enough to make even the most optimistic among us pause. However, through all these things, I'm proud of how the Workforce Solutions team has continued to be positive and provide the best support we can, where and when it's needed most.

In addition to the core services our organization provides to the HMIS workforce, including talent acquisition, benefits administration, employee and labor relations, the Hanford Workers Engagement Center, and much more – we're also very excited about several new initiatives. Watch for some fantastic programs coming soon in the areas of employee recognition, mentorships, growth and development, and employee resource groups, such as the Veterans Advocacy for Learning, Opportunities and Resources, also known as VALOR.

Our team is committed to serving YOU – the driving force behind every HMIS success. And to the Workforce Solutions team, it is an honor to work with this incredible group of people who care so much about our HMIS family. My HR cup runneth over!





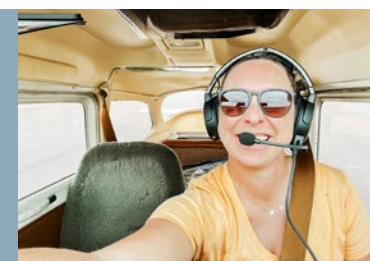
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Todd Krähenbühl

This month, our volunteer spotlight shines on Information System Security Officer Todd Krähenbühl! Todd uses his cyber expertise to assist a nonprofit, helping as an IT consultant to Snake River Community Clinic. The free clinic serves to bridge the gap in health care access for those who are uninsured or under-insured in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley.

Todd stepped into the IT consultant role after hearing from the clinic's executive director, Heidi Burford-Bell, who is also a lifelong friend. She told him of the clinic's plans to transition to Microsoft Office 365. "I stood up and secured their Microsoft tenant, helped configure new laptops and transition the clinic to the new environment. Since then, I have worked to help Heidi with the addition of a few more laptops, field support questions, and maintain their Microsoft subscription," said Todd.

"As a medical clinic, we needed all systems to be secure and HIPAA compliant," said Burford-Bell. "What Todd did was above and beyond all expectations. He got the clinic staff and volunteers set up with proper security configurations and is working on a solution for our volunteer physician logins. The effect of the technology solutions Todd implemented has cascaded into many clinic efficiencies. As a small non-profit, volunteers are at the heart of the work we do – it is because of Todd's generosity of time and service that we are better able to serve our community and fulfill our mission."

Thanks, Todd, for using your talents and knowledge to make an impact!



Congrats to Kate Mosley with our Information Management Systems group who recently completed her first solo flight! Kate began flight training last year and had to patiently wait for her chance in the cockpit after jumping through a few hoops for final approval. Hearing "cleared for takeoff" likely made all the waiting worthwhile. Kate shared, "For those working or struggling on anything, just keep going. Achieving that goal will always be worth it."



To submit an item for our Mission: Accomplished section, please email hmiscomm@rl.gov



This was the first luncheon of its kind for HMIS, and the ladies used the time to discuss improvement opportunities and brainstorm ideas.

Women in Engineering Luncheon Highlights

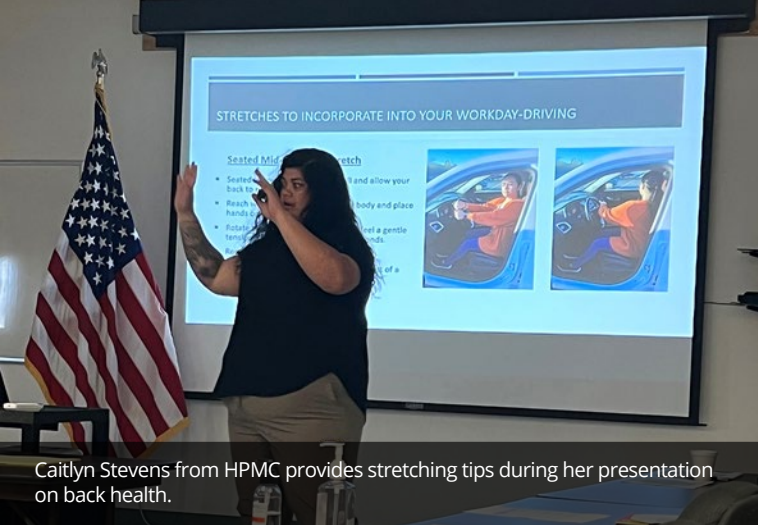
Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Some of our esteemed engineers gathered this month on International Women in Engineering Day at a luncheon hosted by Vice President of Engineering & Projects, and fellow engineer, Diane Cato. Each year the Women's Engineering Society, a charity based in the UK, works to spread awareness of the need for more women in STEM fields, and especially engineering. This year's theme focused on inventors and innovators who dare to be part of the solution when many women are still underrepresented in their professions. Cheers to all our women engineers who imagine the future!



Engineering & Projects Vice President Diane Cato led discussions and small group activities during the working luncheon.





Caitlyn Stevens from HPMC provides stretching tips during her presentation on back health.



Safety Summit attendees review items on a check list during a group discussion.

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Safety Summit Brings Collaboration, Education

Contributor: Cerise Peck

Training is a frequent occurrence for Hanford Patrol, but a recent two-day Safety Summit was a bit different than what we would normally imagine. The summit was an opportunity for Patrol to increase safety knowledge, build worker involvement and collaborate with safety and industrial hygiene professionals to discuss topics that will improve staff safety and patrol capabilities.

The agenda included presentations from HPMC focused on topics to keep officers fit for duty. Learning about sleep routines, nutrition and on-duty stretch techniques contribute to the health and well-being of the patrol staff. Organizers also brought in speakers to talk about topics such as better self-care and protecting teens from online predators.

“Vinny Rizzo has always done a great job of organizing this summit,” said David Chase, vice president of Safeguards, Security & Emergency Response. “Every training we present is important, but we have to remember to be holistic in the information we provide. Covering these topics provides our officers with tools to use off-duty that directly correlate to their health and safety on-duty. Fit for duty doesn’t always mean physical capabilities.”

Having various topics available for conversation between officers also allowed for an open forum where they could share ideas and experiences. Hanford Patrol Chief Lorin Cyr added, “Having the resources available to make these trainings happen certainly allows us to offer more education topics. We appreciate our partnerships with HPMC and the Benton County Sheriff’s Office.”

MISSION: SUPPORT



New HMIS Procurement Specialist and military veteran Grace Petrella (center) is joined by Vice President of Workforce Solutions Julie Lindstrom (left) and Workforce Resources & Development Manager Dan Seitz.

Workforce Solutions Creates VALOR Program to Support Veterans

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS is committed to employing a diverse and talented workforce. As part of that commitment, Workforce Solutions launched the new Veterans Advocacy for Learning, Opportunities and Resources (VALOR) program. The VALOR program is designed to provide support and resources to current and prospective HMIS employees and community members who have served in the military.

The goal is to help veterans find opportunities for meaningful employment through mentorship, professional development coaching, résumé review and mock interviews. “Veterans have an amazing skillset to offer employers, but sometimes they need some help translating those skills as they put together their résumé,” said Dan Seitz, who oversees the VALOR program as our Workforce Resources & Development manager.

Last month, HMIS set up a booth at Congressman Dan Newhouse’s Veterans Service Fair, sharing information about VALOR and current job opportunities at HMIS with dozens of local veterans in attendance. “It was great to have those one-on-one connections and hear their stories,” Seitz added.

Workforce Solutions has also partnered with Recruit Military, a talent and recruiting platform exclusively for veterans and military members. HMIS recruiters can use the database to search for potential candidates and post job opportunities.

Grace Petrella recently joined HMIS as a procurement specialist after 12 years working with the Department of Defense. The U.S. Marine Corps veteran says this program will be great for her fellow veterans because it “will give them a foundation and a guide as they find their way from the military into the civilian world.”



HMIS was proud to be involved in Congressman Dan Newhouse’s Veterans Service Fair in May.

The VALOR program is still in the early stages and Seitz says additional resources will be added. “We take great pride in being a veteran-friendly employer, and now we want to take that one step further,” he shared.



Members of the Biological Controls group, from left, Bart Kirby, Daniel Tucker, Jose Renteria, Matt Ware, Edgar Silva, Keith Shuck, Gary Iverson, Brad Victry, Alan Couste, James Marsh, Scott Benecke, Josh Lampson and Tom Smith.



Tumbleweeds line the highway after a windstorm. The Bio Controls group has the job of removing them.



Snake removal – including the occasional rattler – is also part of the group's work.

MISSION: SUPPORT

Team Focus: Biological Controls

Contributor: MaryAnne Wuennecke

When there's a plant or animal somewhere they aren't supposed to be on Site – and it's getting in the way of work – the Biological Controls group has you covered.

The team is led by Daniel Tucker, who took over this month following Juan Rodriguez's retirement after 30 years. Tucker's team includes Senior Operations Specialist Briana Colley, plus 12 teamsters and three animal control technicians licensed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture for either industrial weed control or pest control.

Pest control encompasses a wide range of critters, from ants to elk. Recent pest service requests have included a prevalence of snakes. "It's mostly bull snakes, but we do run into some rattlers here and there," Colley said. "Many people really don't like snakes, so our team is usually called in to handle those removals." She says the trick is to have someone keep an eye on the location until an animal control technician can get there.

This year they've also seen an increase in requests to handle bee swarms. Bio Controls works with local beekeepers to try to relocate bees rather

than destroy them. Pollinators on the Hanford Site are a very healthy population and can help reinvigorate other Tri-Cities colonies. Other activities include controlling invasive plants in radiological areas, controlling vegetation fire loading around facilities, carcass removals after road strikes, tumbleweed removal, and revegetation – such as replanting or seeding native vegetation. Bio Controls works closely with Environmental Monitoring to help refurbish our native habitats.

It's a big job, covering 550+ square miles, and they rely on everyone to report issues. "Let us know when there's a problem," said Tucker. "We are part of your team, so make sure it's on our radar so we can address it in a timely fashion."



The team weighed each chick and recorded their identification numbers into a trackable system.



Burrowing owl chicks estimated to be just days old.



A tiny band was added to the legs of eight chicks on a single morning to allow for potential monitoring of the birds over their lifespan.



Wildlife Biologist Justin Wilde measured each chick's tail feathers and wings.



Biologist Emily Norris blocks burrowing owls from escaping a nest to be weighed and banded.

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Burrowing Owl Nests Documented on Hanford Site

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our wildlife biologists recently discovered 12 nests of burrowing owls in artificial burrow systems and one natural burrow on the Hanford Site – a positive sign to support and conserve the species! They banded eight young burrowing owls, adding tiny tracking numbers to the birds' legs to potentially monitor their movement and help conserve the species.

At the time of their banding, Biologists Justin Wilde and Emily Norris estimated the birds to be about a month old. The brood hatched in an artificial burrow system, one of dozens of manmade habitats added on the Hanford Site in the last few years. The artificial burrows have helped revive the local presence of the species. After declining to just two breeding pairs on the Hanford Site, the population has risen to at least 13 pairs this season.

Burrowing owls nest underground, often in holes dug by other animals. With fewer habitat options available due to a decline of other species, the small owls benefit from the added artificial sites to raise their young.

To successfully band the owls, the biologists begin by approaching the burrow system, consisting of a covered chamber, the primary burrow in the ground that holds the nest, a plastic tube that serves as a tunnel, and a nearby perching post. If the chicks' parents are nearby, they might remain in the burrow, or fly away, leaving the chicks behind, so the babies are often the only ones banded.

The biologists use a makeshift plunger to prevent the birds from escaping through the tubes and lift the bucket that acts as a lid off the top. As a

defense mechanism, the baby owls will sometimes **make buzzing noises** that sound like a pit of rattlesnakes, hoping to ward off danger!

Reaching into the chamber, Wilde lifted each chick out one by one, measuring its tail feathers and wing size before Norris assisted with weighing them. Most came in around 4-5 ounces, while a full-grown burrowing owl averages 6 ounces. Then, a tiny metal band is added to each chick's leg. The number on the band is uploaded into a database that allows groups like the Global Owl Project, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify the original banding location of an owl if someone comes across the migratory bird in the future. The owls live in shrub steppe and grassland habitats and often head as far south as Mexico in the winter.

The eight chicks found and banded in a single nest were considered a huge success, "Usually, the mother will lay 6-12 eggs, and 80-90% might actually hatch," said Wilde. "Of those, a fraction are expected to survive to adulthood."

A second nest nearby had chicks that were too small to handle, estimated at just days old at the time of the visit. Our biologists will return to follow the same banding process when the owls are older than 20 days.

Burrowing owls are considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and a Priority Species by the WDFW. It is listed as a Candidate Species for the state, meaning it's a candidate for categorizing as Threatened or Endangered. Identifying and assisting with burrowing owl recovery through ecological monitoring, like this, is important to the Hanford Site, and our team, as they work to recover this declining population.

MISSION: SUPPORT

Weather Team Honored for Excellence

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Congratulations to our meteorologists – their support of the National Weather Service's Pendleton office resulted in being named the region's current Ambassador of Excellence for the Weather Ready Nation program! Representatives from the NWS visited the Emergency Operations Center to present the certificate noting our team's accomplishment.

Our weather experts also received a commemoration for recording the new all-time state high temperature record of 120 degrees Fahrenheit on June 29, 2021. The reading was set at a Hanford mesonet site in the 100 Area, part of a network of weather stations maintained by our Mission Assurance team.

NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Marc Austin said, "What stood out was the cooperation in verifying the state record." He noted the thorough quality control needed for the accuracy found in the database of weather records across the Hanford mesonet. Austin said this is likely "the first time a state record was verified from a weather station not maintained by the National Weather Service – which speaks to the confidence in the data and maintenance of the systems on the Hanford Site."



Additionally, the team noted the Hanford Meteorological Station's commitment to work with the NWS to promote hazardous weather safety and preparedness. Our meteorologists recently helped the Hanford Site



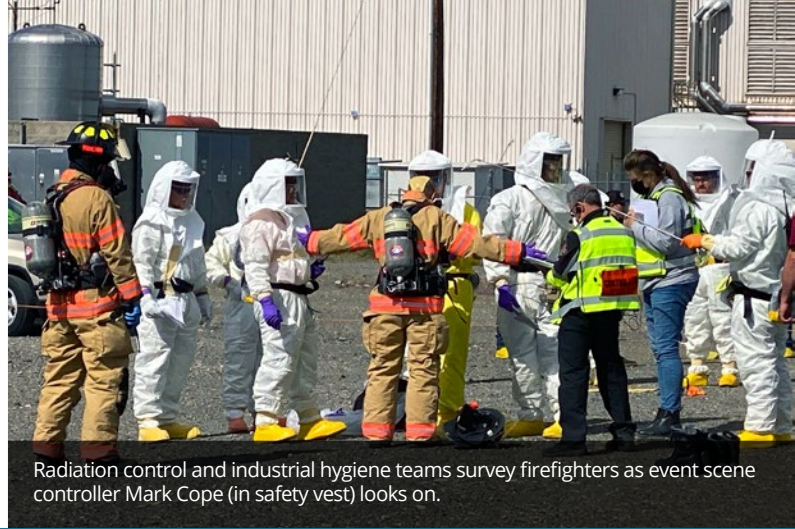
The Hanford Site is now certified StormReady by the National Weather Service.

become certified as StormReady, an NWS program aimed at preparing communities for extreme weather. The EOC is key to the Site's ability to be StormReady and could serve as a home base for response if a hazardous weather event occurred that affected our community.

The NWS Pendleton office covers a large portion of the northwest – as far west as the Cascades and as far south as Redmond, Oregon. The Ambassador award is given to just one entity each year within the territory covered by the local office.



With the 324 Building stack in the background, responding radiation control teams survey workers involved in the exercise.



Radiation control and industrial hygiene teams survey firefighters as event scene controller Mark Cope (in safety vest) looks on.

MISSION: SUPPORT

Annual Field Exercise Engages Multiple Organizations

Contributor: Jill Harvill

A critical aspect of our Hanford Site cleanup mission is to prepare for and prevent emergencies. Field exercises help everyone support a state of emergency preparedness.

The recent annual field exercise scenario included a bomb threat, explosion, worker injuries and radioactive contamination. Workers in the area and our immediate response organizations - the Hanford Fire Department and Hanford Patrol - were among those drilled on their response as the scenario unfolded.

Unique to this scenario was the threat level elevation to a Site Area Emergency and engagement of the FBI. Benton and Franklin County

emergency management and the Oregon and Washington state emergency centers also participated in the exercise. Simulated injured workers were sent by ambulance to Kadlec Regional Medical Center and to HPMC Occupational Medical Services to evaluate their response as well.

Kudos to our Emergency Management & Preparedness team's excellent planning and execution of this exercise!



Workers assist an "injured" co-worker away from the scenario event scene.



A Hanford Fire Department firefighter conducts a prescribed burn of tumbleweeds to prepare for the upcoming fire season.



HFD uses ATVs and UTVs to quickly and effectively cover ground during fire prevention and control operations.



HFD coordinates with heavy equipment operators to cut a 36-foot-wide firebreak line along SR 240.

MISSION: SUPPORT

HFD takes on Wildland Fire Season Preparedness

Contributor: Amber Peters

Each year, before the temperature spikes and lightning strikes of summer arrive, the Hanford Fire Department engages in training and preparation to support the upcoming wildland fire season. When it comes to preventing and limiting the spread of fires onsite, a good defense is a great offense.

Fire preparedness starts with pre-season training. In preparation for this year, Hanford’s 115 firefighters completed wildland refresher training and aided teamsters with their training. They also completed ATV and UTV training and enhanced heat-related injury training due to last summer’s record-setting high temperatures. To ensure HFD’s equipment is ready to

respond, the Fleet Maintenance team performed preventative maintenance on all wildland apparatus, including ATVs and UTVs.

With electrical storms and vehicles common fire starters for the Site, wildland fire preparedness also includes preemptive controls like creating fire breaks and conducting prescribed burns. So far this year, HFD conducted prescribed burns of more than 56,000 cubic yards of tumbleweeds. This work will continue throughout the year until the fire danger rating reaches “Very High.”

HFD coordinated with Site Road Maintenance and heavy equipment operators to create 64 miles of a 36-foot-wide firebreak line along SR-240 and SR-24, which included clearing vegetation and other combustible materials.

“We are an all-hazard department,” said Mark Cope, HFD battalion chief. “Each firefighter takes the responsibility that comes with the job extremely seriously and is dedicated to providing exceptional emergency management and response services to the Hanford Site.”

Consistent with a mindset that has won firefighters a special kind of cultural regard, Cope said the most enjoyable part about his job is “helping people.”



Pipefitter Brad Wright (center) performs backflow assembly testing with support from Pipefitter Russell Barnes. Firefighter Jonathon Palmieri stands by to restore the system after testing.



Electrician Jordan Harris performs annual maintenance on a fire alarm control panel.

MISSION: SUPPORT

Routine Maintenance Results in Yearly Compliance

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Some of the most important parts of a building are the ones you rarely see – and likely never think about. And it's the job of our Fire Systems Maintenance team to support hundreds of fire systems on the Hanford Site – making sure each one meets National Fire Protection Association standards.

“A general rule of thumb is that every three months we do an overall inspection on the system, verifying gauges are within range, there's no leaks, and performing a quick test to ensure water is flowing through appropriately and signals are transmitted to the panel,” said Michael Winkel, director of Fire Systems Maintenance. “Annually and beyond, we do more invasive maintenance and testing, which includes tripping risers, inspecting and maintaining valves, devices and control panels, and testing backflow preventers.”

This routine maintenance process is a joint effort between FSM and the Hanford Fire Department, as a firefighter is part of the inspection and testing process. As the team verifies the system is in working order, the firefighter also communicates with an HFD dispatcher – making sure the signals sent back and forth are working.

“Firefighters act as the radio communication, operating valves, and testing the signals while our electricians and pipefitters perform physical maintenance on the system,” said Winkel. “It's a very well-orchestrated sequence of events, and when you have several people doing some pretty technical procedures together, it's impressive to watch. It may seem cookie-cutter, but it's not.”

It takes about six-months to finish the specialized training needed to be part of the team completing fire system maintenance that looks “routine,” while it's anything but.

MISSION: SUPPORT

Dreaming, Designing, Doing

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

Our Fleet Maintenance crew always has a bit of MacGyver up their sleeves – designing and creating equipment to support field work on the Hanford Site. This includes the most recent project to modify a gravel spreader, adding a specially designed chute to dispense gravel slowly, placing it right alongside the road.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic Mike Nilsson built the chute to attach to the back of the truck, sizing it to meet the edge of the road perfectly. Now the truck can move slowly while the crushed rock flows at the preferred speed. This replaces the need for a standard dump truck that tilts up and empties its contents quickly, without much ability to regulate the flow. Additionally, a truck positioned with its bed at an angle creates safety hazards.

“The new chute will make the many miles of road shoulder repairs more efficient and safer by reducing manual placement of gravel,” said David Baie, Fleet Maintenance director. “The truck will also have year-round utilization as it was previously only used for snow removal activities.”



The finished product – the gravel spreader meets the edge of the road, making it safer and more efficient to lay crushed rock on the road shoulder.

This is the same team that recently completed a job for WRPS, modifying a sample truck so field workers could lift heavy lids easier. And it's the same team that upgraded an air compressor hose for our Roads & Ground group, eliminating a tripping hazard and reducing wear and tear. And it's the same team (notice a pattern?) that solved a storage need by designing and building a wheel mounted to the front of a crane to hold heavy pads, making transport safer and more ergonomic for Crane & Rigging.



Heavy Equipment Mechanic Mike Nilsson works on a new gravel spreader he fabricated in a matter of days for our Road Maintenance organization.

“For most of these, we do our own design,” said Baie. “Our guys are figuring it out, scratching it on a piece of paper and showing it to the engineers, who sign off on it. This is a great group to work for.”

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

One Hanford Effort to Feed Local Families

Contributor: Shane Edinger

HMIS was proud to partner once again with other Hanford contractors to support the third annual Hanford Feeding Families Fundraiser benefitting Second Harvest. With inflation driving prices higher everywhere, local families in the Columbia Basin are feeling the impact. Budgets are tight for many families as they juggle rising costs for groceries, gas, housing, childcare, utilities and other bills.

More people are turning to food banks for support, and Second Harvest provides food for all food pantries in our area. Our support will help it sustain an elevated level of service to ensure there is food available when our community needs it most. Thanks to your donations, the Hanford Feeding Families Fundraiser raised nearly \$20,000 for Second Harvest, which equates to almost 100,000 meals for local families, children and seniors facing hunger. Thank you for helping us support our community!



We appreciate the many HMIS family members who donate their time and money to support Second Harvest.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Business Integration team members Stacie Anderson (left) and Royce Benham helped raise money with a pie-in-the-face contest.



Communications staff Robin Wojtanik (left) and Reneé Brooks pose with Business Integration's Pat Mastaler (center), who's also a JA Board Member, while accepting the Top Corporate Fundraiser award.

We're #1!

Contributor: Robin Wojtanik

The Top Corporate Fundraiser trophy has sat in the lobby of 2490 Garlick for years... and that's where it's gonna stay! We are so proud of our HMIS family for setting the standard for our community as the top fundraisers for this year's Junior Achievement Bowling Classic!

We fielded 18 teams with over 75 bowlers! Together, you raised more than \$11,000 to support local students. The entire Bowling Classic fundraiser brought in more than \$160,000 across all teams, raffles and auction items.

Whether you contributed, bowled, led a team, or promised yourself you'll join the fun next year – we are grateful for all of your support!

